

STAT

The Director
Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

10 June 1980

Mr. Arthur Ochs Sulzberger
Chairman of the Board
The New York Times Company
229 West 43rd Street
New York, New York 10036

Dear Punch,

I appreciate your letter of May 6th and its frank expression of dismay at what you interpret to be a change in our policy on the utilization of journalists accredited to American media organizations. Because of the serious intent of your letter I would like to offer a serious response to each of the points you make.

You start by saying that you were disturbed at my statement that we had resumed the practice of recruiting journalists. That was not my statement nor is it our practice. It is my policy to avoid the use of anyone accredited to an American media organization. In the more than three years I have been the Director of Central Intelligence we have not utilized any such person.

Your next point concerns the change in our statement of policy. Early in my term of office I received complaints about the existing policy. Some were from journalists. Some pointed out that our policy could bring about some unintended inequities. A specific case happened to apply to individuals of the clerical profession who were covered by a corresponding policy statement. A total prohibition on the use of clerics as well as journalists has resulted in our discharging a number of part-time employees who were also part-time clerics. It happened that these employees worked in our Foreign Broadcast Information Service translating unclassified radio broadcasts from overseas. It was patently foolish to deny them this form of partial financial support. Accordingly, I had added to our policy statement the proviso that exceptions can be made by the Director of Central Intelligence himself. Let me point out that this simply makes explicit what was clearly implicit before. In short, under the February 1976 regulation the Director of Central Intelligence always had the option of making an exception to his own regulation. I have simply stated that quite clearly and aboveboard.